



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Leading Experts Form SMARTER Technical Advisory Committee**

**Olympia, Wash.** — December 1, 2010 — The SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium today launched its Technical Advisory Committee comprising 13 of the nation's leading experts in the areas of technology, student assessment and accountability, and other technical disciplines crucial to assessment systems. The committee serves as an important advisory panel to the Consortium in meeting the ambitious challenge of creating a valid, reliable, and fair assessment system for all students based upon the Common Core State Standards.

The SMARTER Consortium includes more than 30 states working collaboratively towards the goal of preparing all students for college and careers by creating a comprehensive assessment system for Mathematics and English Language Arts. The SMARTER assessment system will include rigorous summative and interim assessments, along with formative processes and tools that report on how each student is progressing toward career and college readiness.

"The depth of knowledge and experience represented in this committee is outstanding," says Judy Park, co-chair of SMARTER. "I can't envision a better group to guide the next generation in assessment."

The committee members include Jamal Abedi (University of California, Davis), Randy Bennett (Educational Testing Service), Derek Briggs (University of Colorado at Boulder), Greg Cizek (University of North Carolina), David Conley (University of Oregon), Linda Darling-Hammond (Stanford University), Brian Gong (National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment), Ed Haertel (Stanford University), Joan Herman (University of California, Los Angeles and CRESST), Jim Pellegrino (University of Illinois at Chicago), W. James Popham (University of California, Los Angeles), Joseph M. Ryan (Arizona State University), and Martha Thurlow (University of Minnesota and NCEO).

"We are honored to work with these 13 leaders," says Tony Alpert, co-chair of SMARTER.

"Their knowledge and vision will help ensure that the Consortium's technical work meets and exceeds the needs of students, educators, states, and the business community."

The Technical Advisory Committee is one of many groups of experts advising the Consortium and will meet on a regular basis beginning in early 2011.

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**About SMARTER**

The SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium brings together states to create a common, innovative assessment system for Mathematics and English Language Arts that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and helps prepare students for college and careers. The Consortium involves educators, researchers, policymakers, and community groups in a transparent and consensus-driven process to help all students thrive in a knowledge-driven global economy. Membership is open to any interested U.S. state. For more information, please visit [www.k12.wa.us/smarter](http://www.k12.wa.us/smarter).